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TITLE: Virulence genes, proteins, and their use

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INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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US-CL-CURRENT: 435/32; 424/200.1, 435/29, 435/4

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for identifying an antimicrobial drug, said method comprising: (a) contacting a candidate composition that is a test antimicrobial drug with a polypeptide encoded by the VIR5 gene from *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (b) measuring the imidazoleglycerol-phosphate synthase activity of said VTR5 polypeptide in the presence and absence of said candidate composition; and (c) comparing the imidazoleglycerol-phosphate synthase activity of said VTR5 polypeptide in the presence and absence of said candidate composition, wherein a decrease in the imidazoleglycerol-phosphate synthase activity of said VTR5 polypeptide in the presence of said candidate composition indicates that said candidate composition is an antimicrobial drug, where such an alteration causes a reduction in the inhibition of growth in a *Dictyostelium* growth assay.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said candidate composition comprises a molecule less than 500 Daltons.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said candidate composition comprises a molecule greater than 500 Daltons.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said candidate composition selected from a group consisting of a polypeptide, polysaccharide, lipid, nucleic acid, or combination thereof.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein said polypeptide is an immunoglobulin.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said change comprises an increase in imidazoleglycerol-phosphate synthase activity.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein said change comprises a decrease in imidazoleglycerol-phosphate synthase activity.
8. The method of claim 4, wherein said nucleic acid is a small interfering RNA (siRNA).
9. The method of claim 5, wherein said immunoglobulin is a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody.

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